



Standards & Assessment

U P D A T E

From the Standards and Assessment Division

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California High School Exit Examination (CAHSEE)

2002-2004 Testing Dates

There have been many questions about how schools should schedule their testing dates for the CAHSEE. Of the six testing dates established for each school year, schools will select three regular testing dates and one make-up date. In the 2001-2002 school year, the CAHSEE will be given only once, in the spring. Schools may choose either March 5-7 or May 7-9, 2002 for testing. Students in grade 10 (class of 2004) are required to take the exam if they did not take or pass either or both parts (English-language arts and mathematics) in the 2001 administration. Ninth graders (class of 2005) may volunteer to take the exam on the date selected. Students must be provided eight opportunities: one in grade 10, three in grade 11, three in grade 12 and one after their class has graduated.

One scenario for scheduling testing dates might be as follows:

2001-02 school year — School XYZ chooses the March 5-7, 2002 testing date to offer the test to volunteer ninth graders (class of 2005) and to tenth graders (class of 2004) who did not pass the test in 2001. Anticipating that some tenth graders who are required to take the test are absent, school XYZ chooses the May 7-9, 2002 testing date as a make-up date for those students only.

Results from each administration should be back in about 8 weeks. School XYZ decides to suggest summer school for students who fail either a part or all of the CAHSEE during the March administration. They select the July 23-25, 2002 testing date to offer the test for a second time to these students after they have completed most or all of summer school.

2002-03 school year — School XYZ looks at the calendar for 2002-03 school year and selects the November 5-7, 2002 testing date for students in grade 11 who did not pass the May make-up test or the July test. They also select the March 4-6, 2003 testing date for all tenth graders (class of 2005) and eleventh graders (class of 2004) who have not passed all of the test. Volunteer ninth graders (class of 2006) also would take the CAHSEE at that time.

Passing Scores Approved

The State Board of Education (SBE) approved passing scores for the CAHSEE at its June meeting. The decision was based on data from the March 2001 administration of the CAHSEE. A passing score of 60% correct for the English-language arts portion and a passing score of 55% correct for mathematics portion were established. This means that approximately 65% of all students taking the English-language arts exam and approximately 45% of all students taking the mathematics exam would pass. The Superintendent of Public Instruction (SPI) recommended that the SBE examine the test scores again to determine if students are passing in sufficient numbers to show that additional instruction is helping students master the content assessed on the CAHSEE.

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The SPI also recommended that the SBE monitor CAHSEE test results (and the report of the independent evaluator) to determine when standards implementation by schools has improved to the point that a higher passing score should be considered.

Recommendations for passing scores were based on the report from a standards-setting panel. The American Institutes for Research (AIR) conducted the standards-setting session for the CAHSEE on May 18-20, using the Bookmark method. Panel members included a majority of classroom teachers along with administrators, parents, local board members, and community members. The purpose of the standards-setting was to determine how much of the California content standards, as measured by the CAHSEE, a student must know to demonstrate competency in order to receive a high school diploma. The statement approved by the SBE noted, "The passing score for the CAHSEE means that a student has demonstrated sufficient knowledge of the standards assessed on the test." The standards-setting panel recommended passing scores of 70% correct for mathematics and English-language arts.

Students in future classes will have a better opportunity to reach the goals recommended by the standards-setting panel for the following reasons:

- Adopted instructional material aligned with content standards for kindergarten through grade 8 will be available to students.
- Algebra courses for all students will be provided because of the new law that requires students to take an algebra course to graduate.
- Professional development on the alignment of curriculum with the content standards will be provided for teachers and administrators.
- Standards-based tests in grades two through eleven will be in place.
- Test items in English-language arts and mathematics will be released to assist students and schools in preparation for the exam.
- A public engagement campaign will be conducted to better inform parents, schools, and the community about the CAHSEE.
- Student/parent workbooks on the content standards will be provided to assist students in preparing for the CAHSEE.

- CAHSEE scores will be included in the Academic Performance Index (API).

Test Results Scheduled

Individual student reports with results of the 2001 administration of the CAHSEE will arrive in school districts by August 15, 2001. These reports are to be distributed to parents. The reports will have a scaled score with a pass or not pass indicated for each part in the test and will provide information on the percent of items correct for each standard strand addressed (e.g., reading comprehension or number sense). A sample student report is on the Internet site at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/statetests/hsee.hsee.html>. Group reports (paper only) will arrive in districts by August 29, 2001. The CD's will arrive in districts by September 5, 2001, and results will be posted on the Internet about September 15, 2001. The Standards and Assessment Division will hold briefings in Burbank (July 19) and in Sacramento (July 23) to go over various reports that will be available, the file layout, and the file layout for the Internet.

For More Information...

For more information about any of the state assessments, contact the Standards and Assessment Division of the California Department of Education at (916) 657-3011 (phone), at (916) 657-4964 (fax), or at star@cde.ca.gov (e-mail), at www.cde.ca.gov (Internet). Your questions will be directed to the